Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Florida

Profile of Drug Indicators

December 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Florida

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics 1

- Population: 16,396,515 (2001 Census estimate); 15,982,378 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 65.4% white; 14.2% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 1.5% two or more races; 0.2% other race; 16.8% Hispanic or Latino origin

Politics

- ➤ Governor: Jeb Bush²
- Lt. Governor: Frank Brogan³
- > Attorney General (Interim): Richard Doran⁴
- > Secretary of State: Jim Smith⁵
- ➤ U.S. Senators: Bob Graham (D), Bill Nelson (D)⁶
- ➤ U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-23, respectively): Jeff Miller, Allen Boyd, Corrine Brown, Ander Crenshaw, Karen L. Thurman, Cliff Stearns, John L. Mica, Ric Keller, Michael Bilirakis, C. W. Bill Young, Jim Davis, Adam H. Putnam, Dan Miller, Porter J. Goss, Dave Weldon, Mark Foley, Carrie P. Meek, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Robert Wexler, Peter Deutsch, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, E. Clay Shaw, Jr., Alcee L. Hastings ⁷
- ➤ Director, Florida Office of Drug Control: James McDonough⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- ➤ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
 - Central Florida HIDTA: Designated in 1998, the Central Florida HIDTA is responsible for Hillsborough, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia Counties. Commonly referred to as the I-4 corridor, the area encompasses four international airports, two major seaports, and 75 miles of coastline along the Gulf of Mexico and 47 miles of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.
 - South Florida HIDTA: Designated in 1990 as one of the five original HIDTAs, the South Florida HIDTA is composed of Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward Counties. The area's close proximity to drug producing countries, along with its seaports, airports, and international banking enterprises, make it a major target of criminal enterprise. ¹⁰
 - Jacksonville was designated as a HIDTA location in January 2001. 11
- Community Coalition Project¹²
 Contracted by Florida's Office of Drug Control, the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association is working to coordinate activities focused on strengthening and expanding Florida's community coalitions.

Federal Funding

- ➤ Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Florida:¹³
 - FY 2002
 - \$100,000 to One Voice for Volusia Coalition, Daytona

- FY 2001
 - \$99,448 to Community Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Perry
 - \$100,000 to the Northwest Florida Prevention Coalition, Pensacola
 - \$100,000 to the Substance Abuse Coalition of Sarasota County, Sarasota
- FY 2000
 - \$100,000 to Coalition for a Drug-Free Lee County, Ft. Myers
 - \$100,000 to the Jackson County Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Partnership, Tallahassee
- FY 1999
 - \$100,000 to Jacksonville Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy, Jacksonville
 - \$100,000 to Partners in Prevention of Substance Abuse Coalition, Gainesville
 - \$100,000 to the Grove Counseling Center, Longwood
 - \$100,000 to the Mayor's Drug-Free Communities Coalition, Bradenton
- FY 1998
 - \$100,000 to the Madison County Safe and Drug-Free Communities Partnership, Madison County
 - \$99,822 to the United Way of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale
 - \$100,000 to the Miami Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities, Miami
 - \$100,000 to the Orlando Fights Back Coalition, Orlando
- > Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁴

There are twenty-six sites in Florida that have been officially recognized and received Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites. The Weed and Seed locations are Alachua County, Brevard County, Clearwater, Delray Beach, Eatonville, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, Gainesville, Hillsborough County, Homestead, Jacksonville, Manatee-Sarasota, Miami- Dade, Miami- Dade (Little Haiti/Lemon City), Northwest Riviera Beach, Ocala, Orlando, Pensacola, Polk County, St. Petersburg, Tallahassee (3 sites), Tampa, Volusia County, and West Palm Beach.

- > FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Summary for Florida: 15
 - Formula Funding \$118,536,691
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant \$90,044,401
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant \$24,966,135
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) -\$2,178,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant \$1,348,155
 - Discretionary Funding \$26,985,909
 - Mental Health \$11,093,572
 - Substance Prevention \$3,293,416
 - Substance Abuse Treatment \$12,598,921
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$39,585,862
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$105,936,738
 - Total Funds for Florida: \$145,522,600
- > FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Florida: \$24,687,474¹⁶
- ➤ FY 2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount awarded to Florida: \$3,131,228¹⁷

- ➤ FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Discretionary Grant recipients in Florida: 18
 - \$500,000 to the Board of County Commissioners, Kissimmee (implementation grant)
 - \$498,803 to the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Court/Jackson County Drug Court (implementation grant)
 - \$500,000 to the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Seminole County Courts, Sanford (implementation grant)
 - \$499,999 to St. Johns County Board of Commissioners, St. Augustine (implementation grant)
- ➤ FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Drug Elimination grants received in Florida:¹⁹
 - \$65,360 to the Brandywinde Court Apartments, Jacksonville
 - \$125,000 to the Roosevelt Gardens Apartments, Jacksonville
 - \$125,000 to the Eastwind Apartments, Marathon
 - \$125,000 to the Foxwood Apartments, Panama City
 - \$200,000 to the Tampa Park Apartments, Tampa
 - \$125,000 to the Palm Place Apartments, Winter Haven

Crime & Drug-Related Crime

➤ Preliminary data indicate that there were 58,302 adult arrests for drug violations in Florida from January to June 2002. ²⁰ During 2001, there were 117,235 such arrests. ²¹

Number of Adult Arrests, Selected Offenses, Florida, 2000-June 2002

Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	JanJune 2002
Murder	631	648	304
Forcible sex offenses	3,223	3,412	1,571
Robbery	6,932	7,379	3,557
Aggravated assault	32,298	34,857	15,793
Burglary	16,423	16,518	8,548
Larceny	58,441	64,873	31,020
Motor vehicle theft	7,907	8,774	4,110
Drug	116,912	117,235	58,302
Driving under influence	59,869	59,790	29,359
Liquor law violations	36,655	38,979	17,859

[➤] The Florida Highway Patrol made 2,619 drug arrests in FY 2001-2002.²²

Number of Drug Arrests, Florida Highway Patrol, FY 1998-2002

Year	Number of Drug Arrests				
FY 1998-1999	3,167				
FY 1999-2000	2,065				
FY 2000-2001	2,621				
FY 2001-2002	2,619				

- ➤ Preliminary data for 2000 indicate that 63% of adult male arrestees in Miami tested positive for drugs at arrest. 43% of the arrestees tested positive for cocaine, 38% tested positive for marijuana, and 4% tested positive for opiates. ²³
- ➤ Preliminary 2000 data also indicate that 15.4% of the adult male arrestees in Miami who were interviewed reported using powder cocaine in the seven days prior to being arrested. 14.0% reported crack use in the past seven days.²⁴
- ➤ In Miami during 1999, 66.0% of adult male arrestees tested positive for drugs at arrest. 89.1% of those arrested for a drug offense tested positive for drugs. ²⁵

Percent Positive for Drugs, Adult Males, By Offense Category, Miami, 1999

Offense	Cocaine	Marijuana	PCP	Any Drug
Violent	40.0	33.5	0.4	57.0
Property	48.9	33.0	0.0	66.3
Drug	73.3	45.3	0.0	89.1
Sales	70.6	47.1	0.0	82.4
Possession	73.9	45.2	0.0	90.4
Prostitution	25.0	37.5	0.0	50.0
Other	42.2	37.9	0.3	59.3

➤ During 1999, 63.8% of adult male arrestees and 67.9% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drug use in Ft. Lauderdale. 92.3% of the females arrested for drug possession tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrests. ²⁶

Percent Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Ft. Lauderdale, 1999

Offense Cocaine		Mari	ijuana Meth		th. Any Drug		Drug	
Category	M	${f F}$	\mathbf{M}	${f F}$	\mathbf{M}	${f F}$	\mathbf{M}	${f F}$
Violent	25.2	26.8	38.5	26.8	0.0	0.0	51.0	44.6
Property	47.3	45.0	42.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	69.6	68.3
Drug	63.8	79.6	45.5	34.4	1.4	0.0	86.4	91.4
Sales	57.6	33.3	51.5	33.3	0.0	0.0	81.8	66.7
Possession	65.6	80.2	45.0	35.2	1.6	0.0	87.8	92.3
Prostitution	0.0	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9
Other	35.4	51.4	38.7	26.7	0.5	0.0	59.4	65.1

Drugs

Cocaine

Cocaine is readily available throughout Florida and is the primary drug of concern. Cocaine HCL is the preferred type of cocaine found in the State, but in some areas it is converted to crack for sale at the retail level. Crack cocaine remains a drug of choice for many in the lower socio-economic areas of the State.²⁷

Heroin

Heroin is readily available throughout Florida, with the greatest concentrations in the central and southern parts of the State. ²⁸

Marijuana

Domestically grown and imported marijuana are both readily available in all areas of Florida. Domestic indoor marijuana cultivation is a significant industry in the State.²⁹

➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is the primary drug of concern in the Central Florida region. ³⁰ This area has experienced an increase in methamphetamine use, with concentrated areas found around the Mexican migrant farming communities. Methamphetamine labs have also begun to spread throughout the region. ³¹

Club Drugs

MDMA is found at rave parties in all areas of Florida and is frequently used in conjunction with other illegal and/or prescription drugs. GHB is readily available in Florida, particularly near colleges and universities.³²

> Other Drugs

Pharmaceutical drugs, particularly OxyContin, are widely available in all areas of Florida.³³

➤ According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, less than half of Florida citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³⁴

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Florida, 1999-2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.99%	15.30%	4.31%	5.92%
Past month use of marijuana	6.63	13.11	3.40	4.74
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.39	6.84	1.66	2.47
Past year cocaine use	1.58	5.31	1.22	1.69
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	42.89	35.36	49.81	47.62

Juveniles

➤ Preliminary data indicate that there were 7,353 juvenile arrests for drug violations in Florida from January to June 2002. This is up from 14,656 during all of 2001. This is up from 14,656 during all of 2001.

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Florida, 2000-June 2002

Offense	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	JanJune 2002
Murder	50	59	26
Forcible sex offenses	872	891	398
Robbery	2,223	2,286	1,004
Aggravated assault	6,822	7,063	3,127
Burglary	9,664	9,629	4,861
Larceny	25,770	25,736	12,578
Motor vehicle theft	4,359	4,287	1,954
Drug	14,495	14,656	7,353
Driving under influence	468	548	282
Liquor law violations	2,376	2,507	1,125

From May to June 2002, approximately 63,000 middle and high school students in all but three Florida counties were asked questions about drug use. Six percent of the

middle school students and seventeen percent of the high school students reported using marijuana in the past thirty days.³⁷

Percent of Students Reporting Past Month Drug Use, Florida, 2002

Drug Type	Middle School	High School
Marijuana/hashish	6%	17%
Depressants	5	4
Prescription pain relievers	2	4
Ecstasy	1	3
Inhalants	1	2
Amphetamines	1	2
Cocaine	1	2
Mushrooms	1	1
OxyContin	1	1
LSD or PCP	1	1
Methamphetamine	1	1
Rohypnol	1	1
Steroids	1	1
GHB	1	1
Ketamine	0	0
Heroin	0	0
Crack cocaine	1	0

➤ Results from the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Study show that 45.8% of Florida high school seniors reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes. 38

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Florida, 2001

	0.1	10/1	11/1	1041
	9th	10th	11th	12th
Drug Type and Use	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
Lifetime marijuana use	35.2%	40.5%	44.4%	45.8%
Current marijuana use	22.2	22.5	25.0	23.4
Lifetime cocaine use	6.5	8.1	7.6	13.0
Current cocaine use	4.1	3.4	3.2	5.2
Lifetime inhalant use	12.9	10.0	11.4	13.2
Current inhalant use	5.2	3.1	3.2	5.4
Lifetime heroin use	3.2	2.7	3.8	5.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	6.6	7.2	7.7	9.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	5.8	3.3	5.0	5.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.4	2.0	2.7	3.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	13.7	11.3	10.1	7.5

Enforcement

- Contraband Interdiction Program (CIP)³⁹
 An initiative of the Florida Highway Patrol, CIP assigns Troopers throughout the State to patrol the interstate system and other highways in order to interdict drug couriers and other individuals conducting criminal activities.
- ➤ Central Florida HIDTA Initiatives include the following:⁴⁰
 - Central Florida Methamphetamine Task Force: Members of this task force target major methamphetamine trafficking organizations based in Central Florida.
 - Tampa Colombian/South American Drug Trafficking Organizations Task Force: This initiative aims at reducing the sale and distribution of powder cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin within the Tampa Bay area and surrounding counties.
 - Heroin Task Force: Members of this task force target the most significant heroin trafficking organizations in Central Florida.
- South Florida HIDTA Initiatives include the following:⁴¹
 - Southeast Florida Regional Task Force: This task force conducts money laundering and drug trafficking investigations; seizes illicit drugs, related profits and assets; and prosecutes members of drug trafficking organizations.
 - Street Terror Offender Program: Members of this group work to identify South Florida's most violent and prolific drug-involved organizations and individuals.
 - Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team: This team locates and apprehends major narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and violent fugitives.
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 62,977 full-time law enforcement employees in Florida. 42

Trafficking and Seizures

- ➤ The Florida coastline provides unlimited opportunities for drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). 43
- ➤ Florida is a principal thoroughfare for cocaine and heroin transiting to the northeastern United States and Canada. 44
- > Smuggling via the use of go-fast vessels, primarily from the Bahamas, is the biggest cocaine trafficking threat to Florida. 45
- ➤ Methamphetamine is transported into Florida by DTOs based in California and Texas. 46
- ➤ The Florida panhandle region is a transit area for marijuana from Mexico.⁴⁷
- ➤ The primary method for smuggling South American heroin into Florida is through the use of couriers, who ingest the drug in quantities as large as one kilogram. ⁴⁸
- From CY 1998 through CY 2001, Florida ranked second in heroin seizures nationwide. 49
- ➤ In 2001, Federal agencies seized more than 7,000 kilograms of cocaine in Florida. ⁵⁰

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Florida, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	7,359.4 kilograms
Heroin	633.6 kgs.
Marijuana	30,185.4 kgs.
Methamphetamine	87.0 kgs.

From January through June 30, 2002, there were 66 methamphetamine labs seized in Florida. During full year 2001, 33 labs were seized.⁵¹

Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Florida, 1996-June 30, 2002

Year	Labs Seized
Full year 1996	0
Full year 1997	1
Full year 1998	6
Full year 1999	23
Full year 2000	15
Full year 2001	33
January-June 30, 2002	66

➤ During FY 2001-2002, the Florida Highway Patrol seized more than \$760,000 worth of powder cocaine. ⁵²

Seizures Made by Florida Highway Patrol, FY 2000-2002

	FY 200	00-2001	FY 200	01-2002
Item Seized	Amount Value		Amount	Value
Crack cocaine	2.11 pounds	\$86,168	1.40 pounds	\$56,404
Cocaine	16.53 pounds	\$294,671	59.74 pounds	\$760,941
Marijuana	1,688.1 pounds	\$2 million	347.10 pounds	\$527,069
Cash	\$248,584	N/A	\$416,344	N/A

➤ During 2001, there were 28,206 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated and seized in Florida under the DEA's Domestic Eradication/Suppression Program. ⁵³

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Florida, 2001

Outdoor Operations		Indoor	Indoor Operations		Bulk
	Cultivated			Cultivated	Processed
Plots	Plants	Grows	Plants	Plants	Marijuana
Eradicated	Eradicated	Seized	Eradicated	Eradicated	Seized
341	13,055	210	15,151	28,206	3,242 lbs.

➤ The value of assets seized in Florida during 2001 under the DEA's Domestic Eradication/Suppression Program totaled \$504,563. 54

Courts

- ➤ Drug Courts⁵⁵
 - As of November 26, 2002, there were eighty-five drug courts in existence or being planned in Florida. Thirty-seven of the drug courts have been operating for over two years, thirty-two have recently been implemented, and sixteen are being planned.
- ➤ During FY 2001, 48.9% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Florida had committed a drug offense. Approximately 42% (794) of the drug offenses involved powder cocaine. ⁵⁶

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Florida, FY 2001

Drug Involved	Percent	Number
Powder cocaine	41.5%	794
Crack cocaine	17.7	338
Heroin	15.0	287
Marijuana	14.0	267
Methamphetamine	5.5	106
Other	6.3	121

Corrections

- At the end of October 2002, there were 70,194 male and 4,569 female inmates in the Florida prison system.⁵⁷
- ➤ Of the 72,007 inmates in the Florida prison system on June 30, 2001, approximately 18% (17.9%) were drug offenders. ⁵⁸
- At the end of 2001, there were 294,626 adults on probation in Florida, down from 296,139 adults on probation at the beginning of the year. ⁵⁹
- ➤ The number of adults on parole in Florida decreased from 5,982 at the beginning of 2001 to 5,891 at the end of 2001. 60
- ➤ The Florida Department of Corrections has approved budget cuts eliminating many inmate drug treatment programs. The \$13 million in budget cuts will result in the elimination of in-house treatment programs at all but four of Florida's prisons. ⁶¹

Consequences of Use

- From January to June 2002, there were more than 500 drug-related deaths in Florida in which cocaine was either present or the causing factor of the death. ⁶²
- During full year 2001, there were 1,105 cocaine-related deaths in Florida. 63

Number of Drug-Related Deaths, Florida, 2000-June 2002

Drug Involved	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	JanJune 2002
Ethyl alcohol	3,528	3,120	1,487
Benzodiazepines	1,314	1,378	734
Cannabinoids	652	707	331
Cocaine	1,034	1,105	579
GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate)	23	28	8
Heroin	276	328	141
Hydrocodone*	660*	420	248
Oxycodone*		537	267
Ketamine	9	9	1
Methadone	209	357	254
Methylated amphetamine	66**	147	52
PCP		1	0
Rohypnol	1	1	0
NO2		4	0

^{*} Hydrocodone and Oxycodone were combined in 2000

^{**} Data is for July to December 2000 only

Treatment

➤ During 2001, there were 67,734 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Florida. 64

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Florida, 2001

Drug Type	# of Admissions	% of All Admissions
Alcohol	19,138	28.3%
Alcohol w/ secondary drug	8,250	12.2
Cocaine – smoked	10,164	15.0
Cocaine – other route	3,211	4.7
Marijuana	14,356	21.2
Heroin	3,723	5.5
Other opiates	3,218	4.8
PCP	6	0.0
Hallucinogens	172	0.3
Amphetamines	467	0.7
Other stimulants	34	0.1
Tranquilizers	534	0.8
Sedatives	171	0.3
Inhalants	33	0.0
Other	4,257	6.3
Total	67,734	100.0

Sources

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³⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Volume II. Supplementary Technical Appendices, October 2002: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2kState/PDF/Vol2/OOSAERptVol2 W.pdf

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